

FIRST 5 LA

SUBJECT:

Permanent Supportive Housing for homeless former foster mothers/families with children aged 0-5.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2012-09 to approve an allocation of up to \$25 million to be made available via Notice of Funds Available ("NOFA") to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless mothers/families with children aged 0-5 that were previously involved in the child welfare system or those exiting foster care and at risk of homelessness.

MOTION BY CHAIR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY:

A report prepared by First 5 LA staff in June 2012 and presented to this Commission is a comprehensive baseline assessment of the issue of homeless children aged 0-5 in Los Angeles County. It is the first comprehensive report on this topic presented in this County. The major conclusions of the report are stark:

- On any given night, at least 3,000 children aged 0-5 in Los Angeles County are homeless. They live with their families in shelters, transitional housing, on the street, or in other places not fit for human habitation. Many of these children's mothers/families were involved in our child welfare system.
- Homelessness puts children at risk of poor outcomes in all of First 5 LA's goal areas. For example, homeless children are 12 times more likely than other children to enter the foster care system, are more likely to be overweight and obese than other children are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as children who are not homeless.
- The number of children 0-5 who are homeless is unacceptably high and expected to grow in the future.
- Funding Permanent Supportive Housing for children aged 0-5 and their mothers/ families previously involved in the child welfare system will help break the generational cycle of child abuse and neglect, and is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan.

In the near term, First 5 LA has the ability and the resources to be a catalyst toward changing these sobering statistics. While we cannot solve this problem quickly, we can move in the right direction. Targeted housing and services for parents involved in the child welfare system can help communities break the cycle of child abuse and homelessness among families with diverse needs. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) linked to customized services — is the single best tool we have for preventing homelessness, child abuse, neglect and abandonment while ending homelessness and promoting safe, stable and healthy families and children.

Many providers are currently engaged in creating permanent supportive housing, but most of these efforts are specifically targeted for chronically homeless adults, those with disabilities, behavioral health needs, mental health needs, etc. There is a great need for permanent supportive housing for families with young children who have been part of our foster care system. The permanent supportive housing model combines housing with comprehensive services such as mental health and health treatment, substance abuse prevention, employment opportunities, life training, early education and child care, school readiness.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE FIRST 5 LA COMMISSION ADOPT RESOLUTION NUMBER 2012-09, APROVING AN ALLOCATION OF \$25 MILLION TO PROVIDE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS MOTHERS AND FAMILIES PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN OR TRANSITIONING OUT OF OUR CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-5, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. Proposals for funding to be solicited through a NOFA to be released not later than September 14, 2012.
2. Projects/Proposals will be considered for funding ONLY if the proposer can be under contract and in-progress by December 1, 2012.
3. Funding parameters and eligibility of grantees to be strictly monitored by the Commission and, if necessary, the Program and Planning Committee.
4. First 5 LA and County staff to convene a panel of independent experts to meet as soon as feasible to advise regarding funding parameters, eligible types of projects and grantees.

For Office Use

Board Action Taken:

Approved: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Further Discussion

Referred to Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-09

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FIRST PROPOSITION 10 COMMISSION ("FIRST 5 LA")
APPROVING AN ALLOCATION OF UP TO \$25 MILLION TO BE MADE AVAILABLE VIA
NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE ("NOFA") TO PROVIDE PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE
HOUSING FOR HOMELESS MOTHERS/FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN AGED 0-5**

The Board of Commissioners of the Los Angeles County Children and Families First Proposition 10 Commission ("First 5 LA") hereby finds and resolves as follows:

Whereas, a report prepared by First 5 LA staff in June 2012 and presented to this Commission in July 2012 is a comprehensive baseline assessment of the issue of homeless children aged 0-5 in Los Angeles County. It is the first comprehensive report on this topic presented in this County. The major conclusions of the report are stark:

- On any given night, at least 3,000 children aged 0-5 in Los Angeles County are homeless. They live with their families in shelters, transitional housing, on the street, or in other places not fit for human habitation.
- Homelessness puts children at risk of poor outcomes in all of First 5 LA's goal areas. For example, homeless children are 12 times more likely than other children to enter the foster care system, are more likely to be overweight and obese than other children are twice as likely to repeat a grade and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as children who are not homeless.
- The number of children 0-5 who are homeless is unacceptably high and expected to grow in the future.
- Funding Permanent Supportive Housing for children aged 0-5 and their mothers and families is consistent with the Commission's Strategic Plan.
- In the near term, First 5 LA has the ability and the resources to be a catalyst toward changing these sobering statistics. While we cannot solve this problem quickly, we can move in the right direction.
- Targeted housing and services can help communities break the cycle of homelessness among families with diverse needs.
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)—permanent, affordable housing linked to customized services—is the single best tool we have for ending homelessness and promoting safe, stable and healthy families and children.
- Many providers are currently engaged in creating supportive housing, but most of those efforts are specifically targeted for chronically homeless adults, those with disabilities, behavioral health needs, mental health needs, etc. There is a great need for permanent supportive housing for families with young children -- housing that includes supports including but not limited to, welfare to work linkages, early education and child care, child support, school linkages, health and mental health care, etc.
- Permanent supportive housing combines affordable housing with comprehensive services such as mental health treatment, substance abuse prevention, employment opportunities, and life training.